

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC386837
Inspection date	9 July 2009
Inspector	Anthony Kyem
Type of Inspection	Random

Date of last inspection	18 March 2009
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About this inspection

The purpose of this inspection is to assure children and young people, parents, the public, local authorities and government of the quality and standard of the service provided. The inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcome for children set out in the Children Act 2004 and relevant National Minimum Standards for the establishment.

The inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding:	this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality
Good:	this aspect of the provision is strong
Satisfactory:	this aspect of the provision is sound
Inadequate:	this aspect of the provision is not good enough

Service information

Brief description of the service

The home provides care and accommodation for two young people of either sex, aged between 10 and 16 years of age. The home is owned and managed by a private company.

The property is a semi-detached three bedroom house with good access to local amenities. The home comprises of three separate bedrooms, washing facilities, kitchen, lounge and dining area. To the front of the home there is off road parking available for staff cars and to the rear there is an enclosed garden.

Summary

This is the home's first inspection with Ofsted. The home is not currently providing accommodation to young people. Ofsted's inspection methodology relies on evidence found at the time of the inspection and this essentially includes young people's views about the service. As this evidence is not available when there are no young people present, we have completed a proportionate inspection, the purpose of which is to decide that should an admission occur, the home would be able to provide care to a satisfactory standard. For this purpose a satisfactory judgement rating has been given. The outcome areas for staying safe and economic well-being were the only outcome assessed during this random inspection.

The overall quality rating is satisfactory.

This is an overview of what the inspector found during the inspection.

Improvements since the last inspection

This is the home's first inspection by Ofsted.

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is not judged.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Currently the home is vacant with no young people or staff presently occupying the home. The home has not taken any new admissions since its registration.

Policies and procedures are in place to promote young people's welfare and safety. These include, procedural guidance for staff on dealing with new admissions, complaints, care and control, missing person's, bullying and child protection. Whilst no staff are presently working at the home, there are sufficient numbers of staff employed to provide care should an admission occur.

Recruitment and selection procedures were assessed during the home's recent registration, where recruitment practices were found to be satisfactory. The arrangements in place to promote health and safety are also satisfactory in relation to the systems in place, to promote health and safety within the home.

The home's next inspection will be a full key inspection where the home's performance in all outcome areas will be fully assessed.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is not judged.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is not judged.

Achieving economic wellbeing

The provision is satisfactory.

At present, the home is unoccupied and no young people are resident. Should an admission be made, the home would be in a position to provide care to a satisfactory standard. Young people's bedrooms have been purposefully decorated in neutral colours. Within young people's bedrooms there is a welcome pack, a children's guide to the home, new towels, clean bedding and toiletries. Bedrooms were observed to be suitably furnished and equipped to meet young people's needs.

The home comprises of three separate bedrooms, washing facilities, kitchen, lounge and dining area. One bedroom is used by staff as an office. The office has confidential storage facilities available, to keep young people's private records secure. Secure facilities are also in place for the safe storage of young people's medication.

To the front and rear of the home, the grassed areas have become overgrown, which doesn't create a positive first impression on arrival. In all other respects, the home is suitably furnished and maintained to a good standard of decorative repair.

Organisation

The organisation is not judged.

What must be done to secure future improvement?

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions, which must be taken so that the registered person meets the Care Standards Act 2000, The Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The Registered Provider must comply with the given timescales.

Standard	Action	Due date
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Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure that the gardens to the front and the rear of the property are suitably maintained. (NMS 24)